(c) what steps are being taken to export the excess production of foodgrains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The total production of foodgrains during kharif 2001-02 is likely to be 105.59 million tonnes as per the Advance Estimates released on 28.09.2001.

(b) The estimated kharif production of foodgrains during current year is 2.48 million tonnes more than the production of 103.11 million tonnes during kharif 2000-01.

(c) The question of enhancing the exports was discussed and examined by a Standing Committee of Union Ministers and Chief Ministers. The Standing Committee has suggested, *inter-alia,* removal of quantitative restrictions and other restrictions on the export of some of the. agricultural commodities such as rice, wheat & wheat products, coarse grains, pulses and butter.

Ecologically sustainable farming systems in Southern States

622. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any action plan to promote ecologically sustainable farming systems in Andhra Pradesh and other Southern States, to substantially increase food production there; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) No, Sir, no specific plan schemes for promoting ecologically sustainable farming is being implemented by Department of Agriculture & Cooperation. However, the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation initiated the Macro Management Scheme by subsuming 27 Centrally Sponsored Schemes in November, 2000. Macro Management Scheme aims at all round sustainable development in agriculture through Work Plans prepared by States.

Integration of Central Schemes will and enhance the productivity of the support programmes and accord greater flexibility to State Governments to develop and pursue activities on the basis of regional developmental priorities.

Some of the Schemes under Macro Managements Schemes are:

(i) National Watershed Development Programme for rainfed Area (NWDPRA); (ii) Soil Conservation in the catchment of River valley Projects and Flood Prone Rivers; (iii) Reclamation of alkali soil for the development of degraded lands; (iv) Improving soil health—campaign for application of green manure/vermi compost/ micro-nutrient; (v) Integrated Nutrient Management and popularization of bio-fertilizers; (vi) Integrated Pest Management; (vii) Popularization of drip irrigation/plastics for improving water use efficiency etc. These schemes which are being implemented in Andhra Pradesh and other Southern States, as well as rest of the country, aim at achieving ecologically sustainable development of farming systems for increasing food production.

Study of starvation in the Country

623. SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government sent any team for an on-the-spot study of situation leading to over twenty starvation deaths in Kashipur in Orissa and to study of situation in other prime starvation areas of Orissa and elsewhere;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(c) the total foodgrain stocks rotting in different Government warehouses and stores, as on September 1, 2001?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) No team was sent by the Ministry of Agriculture in this regard.

(c) As per information furnished by the Department of Food and Public Distribution, the total stock of foodgrains with the Food